CLAIMS

1. A clear stable aqueous solution comprising an alkali metal silicate waterglass, a water soluble aluminate and a hydroxy carboxylic acid.

2. A solution according to claim 1 characterised in that the water soluble aluminate is an alkali metal aluminate.

3. A solution according to either of claims 1 or 2 characterised in that the water soluble aluminate is a sodium aluminate.

4. A solution according to any of claims 1 to 3 characterised in that the hydroxycarboxylic acid is an α-hydroxy carboxylic acid.

5. A solution according to claim 4 characterised in that the hydroxycarboxylic acid is selected from the group comprising tartaric acid, malic acid, gluconic acid, lactic acid, saccharic acid and citric acid.

6. A solution according to claim 5 characterised in that the hydroxycarboxylic acid is citric acid.

7. A solution according to any of the preceding claims characterised in that the alkali metal silicate waterglass having a weight ratio SiO_2:M_2O of from 2.0:1 to 4.0:1 where M represents an alkali metal cation.

8. A solution according to claim 7 characterised in that the sodium silicate waterglass has a weight ratio SiO_2:Na_2O of from 2.5:1 to 3.0:1.

9. A solution according to either of claims 7 or 8 characterised in that it further comprises a potassium silicate waterglass

10. A solution according to claim 9 characterised on that the potassium silicate has a weight ratio SiO_2:K_2O of from 1.43:1 to 2.05:1.

11. A solution according to either of claims 9 or 10 characterised in that the molar ratio of sodium ions to potassium ions is at least 2:1.

12. A solution according to any of the preceding claims characterised in that the molar ratio of silicon to aluminium is in the range 20:1 to 35:1.

13. A solution according to claim 12 characterised in that the molar ratio of silicon to aluminium is in the range 25:1 to 32:1.

14. A solution according to any of the preceding claims characterised in that the weight ratio of silica to alkali metal oxide is in the range 2:1 to 4:1.

15. A solution according to any of the preceding claims characterised in that it further comprises a polyhydric compound.

16. A solution according to claim 15 characterised in that the polyhydric compound is glycerol.

17. A clear intumescent interlayer characterised in that it has been produced by drying a solution according to any of claims 1 to 16 under controlled conditions.

18. An interlayer according to claim 17 characterised in that it comprises from 10 to 35% by weight of water.

19. An interlayer according to either of claims 17 or 18 characterised in that it comprises from 0.1 to 5.0% by weight of aluminium.

20. An interlayer according to any of claims 17 to 19 characterised in that the interlayer has a thickness of form 0.5 to 2.0 mm.

21. A glass sheet having an interlayer according to any of claims 17 to 20 on one surface thereof.

22. A laminated glazing which comprises one or more interlayers according to any of claims 17 to 20 and two or more sheets of glass.

23. A clear stable solution comprising a water soluble aluminate, a hydroxycarboxylic acid and a polyhydroxy compound.

24. A solution according to claim 23 characterised in that the aluminate is sodium aluminate.

25. A solution according to either of claims 23 or 24 characterised in that the hydroxycarboxylic acid is citric acid.

26. A solution according to any of claims 23 to 25 characterised in that the polyhydroxy compounds is glycerol.

27. A solution according to any of claims 23 to 26 characterised in that it has a pH in the range 9.0 to 11.0.